



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 06879.0004-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Yukio WATANABE et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1722  
)  
Application No.: 10/019,658 ) Examiner: J. Del Sole  
)  
Filed: January 2, 2002 ) Confirmation No.: 9996  
)  
For: HARDNESS TAPER TUBE AND )  
PRODUCTION METHOD AND )  
DEVICE THEREFOR )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT**

In response to the Office Action mailed December 29, 2003, the period for response having been extended two months by a request for extension of time and fee payment filed concurrently herewith, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Please amend the specification, the claims, and the drawings as indicated in the Amendments to Specification, the Amendments to the Claims, and the Amendments to the Drawings sections below.

The **Amendments to the Specification** section begins on page 3 of this Amendment.

The **Amendments to the Claims** section begins on page 4 of this Amendment.

The **Amendments to the Drawings** section begins on page 7 of this Amendment. The amendments to the drawings are incorporated in one attached, formal replacement drawing sheet containing Fig. 7, which includes the legend, "PRIOR ART."

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this Amendment.

**Attachments** to this Amendment include the above-mentioned formal replacement drawing sheet and a replacement Abstract of the Disclosure.